



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier Bay National Park
and Preserve

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Glacier Bay News Release

Release date: Immediately
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Phone number: (907) 697- 2230
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TEMPORARY CLOSURE TO OVERNIGHT CAMPING IN THE MUIR POINT AREA DUE TO BEAR ACTIVITY

In Accordance with
Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations 13.30(d)(2)

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Superintendent Tomie Lee announced today that an immediate closure to overnight camping due to a series of recent bear incidents has been ordered for the area of Muir Point, in the East Arm of Glacier Bay. The camping closure extends along the mainland from the Mount Wright drop-off, north around Muir Point, to the boundary of the non-motorized waters of Adams Inlet. Two recent incidents in which a bear approached occupied camps, caused property damage, and in one of the cases, obtained the camper's food, have indicated a potential for escalating bear-human interactions taking place in this area. Due to the concern for public safety and disruption of natural bear feeding habitat, this closure to overnight camping will remain in effect until further notice.

Two separate incidents occurred in the Muir Point area on or around June 12, 2006. The first incident involved a lone camper who was cooking his breakfast when a black bear approached. He attempted to deter the bear by clapping and yelling, but the bear continued to approach. The camper backed away from his meal and the bear moved in and ate it. The second incident involved two campers in their tents awakened about 4:00 am when they heard a bear rummaging through their dry bags about 30 feet away. They observed a large black bear (believed to be the same bear) ripping the bags open and rolling onto and chewing on the clothing which was contained in the bags. They yelled at the bear and deployed an air horn. The bear became focused on them and walked towards their tents, approaching the campers to within 3-5 feet. The animal then stopped and stared at them and put his nose in one tent. He approached the second tent and the



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campers deployed the air horn again. The bear stared at them and tore the tent one time with his paw. Then the bear walked away without further incident.

This closure to overnight camping is in accordance with the park's guidelines for managing bear- human interactions, and is a precautionary effort to prevent injuries to those camping in this area of the park. Visitors to Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve are advised to contact the park's Visitor Information Station (907- 697- 2627) for the most current information regarding bear incidents in the area.